

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph of page 13 (i.e., lines 3-23) with the following amended paragraph:

-- The polarization is defined as follows: S-polarized light is polarized light L in a direction perpendicular to a section of a projection optical system OP as shown in FIG. 12A. P-polarized light is polarized light L in a direction parallel to a section of a projection optical system OP as shown in FIG. 12A. Here, FIG. 12 is a typical view that defines p-polarized light and p-polarized light. In other words, s-polarized light polarizes in a $[[Y]] \underline{Y'}$ -axis direction, while p-polarized light polarizes in an $[[X]] \underline{X'}$ -axis direction, where a Z axis is a progress direction of the light L, the $[[X]] \underline{X'}$ axis is a direction orthogonal to the Z axis and parallel to a section (or paper surface) of the projection optical system OP, and the $[[Y]] \underline{Y'}$ axis is a direction orthogonal to the section (or paper surface) of the projection optical system OP. The contrast of a pattern 141 will be calculated using the s-polarized light and p-polarized light, which repeats in the $[[X]] \underline{X'}$ -axis direction as shown in FIG. 13. FIG. 13 is a typical view of a mask pattern that repeats in the $[[X]] \underline{X'}$ -axis direction. --

Please replace the paragraph begins at line 21 of page 14 through line 5 of page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

-- In order to achieve high-resolution imaging performance as predicted by the scalar theory, the p-polarized light is removed from light that includes the p-polarized light and the s-polarized light, and only the s-polarized light may be used for imaging a pattern. That is, as shown in FIG. 15, s-polarized light 162 that has a polarization direction in the $[[Y]] \underline{Y'}$ -axis direction is usable

to image, at high resolution, a line pattern 161 as a mask pattern that elongates in a $[[Y]]$ \underline{Y} -axis direction. FIG. 15 is a typical view showing a relationship between a pattern forming direction and a polarization direction. --